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Letter dated 15 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 February 2001 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Economic and Social Council, under item 13 (l) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the paper submitted by the Greek Cypriot administration, during the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York between 22 and 26 January 2001, which contains false allegations against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as well as misrepresentations regarding the situation on the island.

At the outset, I would like to emphasize that the paper in question, submitted ostensibly on behalf of "Cyprus", is based on the false premise that the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to be the "government of the Republic of Cyprus", is the sole legitimate authority on the island. This claim is flawed on both legal and factual grounds. It will be recalled that the partnership Republic of Cyprus, established in 1960 by the two co-founder peoples, was destroyed by the Greek Cypriots in 1963 with the ultimate aim of annexing the island to Greece. The Turkish Cypriots never relinquished their partnership rights emanating from the 1960 Agreements and valiantly resisted the attempted takeover of the State by the Greek Cypriot side. As a result, since December 1963, there has not been a joint central administration on the island capable of representing the island as a whole. The natural outcome of the above turn of events has been the emergence of two separate administrations.

Against this background, it is clear that the Greek Cypriot administration has no legal right to claim to represent the island as a whole or to act or speak on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people whose sole legitimate representatives are those elected under the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The paper submitted by the Greek Cypriot side severely distorts the realities pertaining to Cyprus. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is referred to as "occupied areas", "inaccessible part of the island" and as a "subordinate local administration". First of all, I would like to emphasize that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 37-year-old illegal occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of Government of the 1960 bi-national Republic of Cyprus. As for the Turkish intervention in 1974, which the Greek Cypriot side tries to portray as an "invasion", it should be recalled that it was the bloody *coup d'état* staged on 15 July 1974 by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus in order to annex the island to Greece and to wipe out the Turkish Cypriot people that left Turkey with no alternative but to intervene in Cyprus. The intervention was carried out in accordance with the rights and obligations of Turkey under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. In this connection, it goes without saying that the Turkish military presence in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee, is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people since it is the principal deterrent against the current hostile policies and military preparations of the Greek Cypriot administration in collaboration with Greece, within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine".

Contrary to the false allegations contained in the said paper, the relations between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are based on mutual recognition and respect of each other's sovereignty. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a fully fledged independent State which meets the criteria for

statehood in international law. The close ties of cooperation between the two countries does not make Northern Cyprus a "subordinate administration".

The paper further raises the issue of the choice of geographical names in Northern Cyprus. To put it mildly, this is a shameless attempt to mislead the world community. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority which decides on the choice of geographical names in Northern Cyprus. However, the Greek Cypriot administration cannot even tolerate the usage of geographical names by the Turkish Cypriot people, who have inhabited the island for centuries, in their mother tongue Turkish. As it stands, the Greek Cypriot paper amply sheds light on the anachronistic mentality which created the Cyprus question in the first place and which renders its resolution difficult. At the root of this mentality lies the aspiration of the Greek Cypriot side to convert Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot state. As also evident in the paper, there is an attempt by the Greek Cypriot side to protect Cyprus as if it is a Greek island. In fact, Cyprus has never been Greek or ruled by Greece at any period in history. On the other hand, Cyprus was ruled by the Turks for centuries. Hence, it is absurd to expect the Turkish Cypriot people to abandon using their mother tongue in their homeland and instead use nomenclature alien to their own culture and language.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Economic and Social Council, under item 13 (l) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus